

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TANANA 00671 110856Z

44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 L-02 H-02 SS-15

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

SY-05 SAM-01 /068 W

----- 090686

R 110725Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7142

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TANANARIVE 0671

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, MA (REPPAS, GEORGE S)

SUBJECT: REPPAS' DISAPPEARANCE

REF: TANANARIVE 0647 (NOTAL)

1. LOCAL MALAGASY LANGUAGE PAPER REPORTED APRIL 10 AS RUMOR THAT REPPAS HAS FLED COUNTRY. BRIEF ARTICLE WITH FRONT-PAGE PICTURE OF REPPAS STATES THAT HE IS RUMORED TO HAVE LEFT MAJUNGA APRIL 5 ON SMALL MOTOR DINGHY.

2. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT THIS FIRST ARTICLE WILL GENERATE CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC INTEREST. RESPONSE TO DIRECT QUESTIONS FROM PRESS, EMBASSY FEELS, SHOULD BE "NO COMMENT," AND IF PRESSED REPORTER SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO MINISTRY OF JUSTICE (REFTEL).

3. SHOULD REPORT IN LOCAL PAPER PROVE TRUE AND REPPAS REACHES COMORO ISLANDS, EMBASSY REQUESTS THAT ANY CONSULAR ASSISTANCE NECESSARY BE HANDLED THROUGH DAR ES SALAAM OR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 TANANA 00671 110856Z

PARIS, TO FURTHER DISASSOCIATE THIS POST FROM HIS APPARENT

ESCAPE.

4. FOR INFO ADDRESSEES: GEORGE REPPAS IS PROMINENT AMERICAN BUSINESSMAN WHO WAS SERVING FIVE-YEAR SENTENCE IN MADAGASCAR FOR DEFRAUDING STATE, EMBEZZLEMENT AND OTHER CHARGES. DESPITE REPEATED ATTEMPTS BY EMBASSY TO SECURE HIS RELEASE, REPPAS HAS SPENT LAST TWO-AND-HALF YEARS IN PRISON HERE. DURING FEBRUARY INSURRECTION REPPAS WAS RELEASED FROM PRISON WITH OTHER PRISONERS BY REBELS. BECAUSE OF DAMAGE TO PRISON GOMR LATER PAROLED PRISONERS TO THEIR FAMILIES AND REPPAS WAS PERMITTED TO STAY AT EMBASSY. REPPAS WAS STILL LIVING HERE UNDER THIS ARRANGEMENT WHEN HE DISAPPEARED ON MARCH 28. HE HAS APPARENTLY ATTEMPTED TO ESCAPE FROM ISLAND. MENDENHALL

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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05 JUL 2006

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TAGS: CASC, MA, (REPPAS, GEORGE S)
To: STATE
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